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REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of March 18, 2005. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and entry of the Amendment.

The Office Action is directed to claims 1 to 17. Claims 5, 8 and 10 were objected to, and claims 1 to 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11 to 17 were rejected. Claims 1, 4, 10 and 12 have been amended, claims 3, 5, 8 and 13 to 17 have been canceled, and new claims 18 to 23 have been presented.

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Examiner stated that correction of the following was required: a flame retardant having tetra alkyl phosphonium cations (claim 5) could not be found in the specification.

Claim 5 has been canceled by this Amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Claims 5, 8 and 10 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 8, which was allowable, as well as the limitation of claim 3, from which claim 8 depended, and claims 3 and 8 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable. Claim 4 was amended to depend from claim 1, instead of canceled claim 3. Claim 10 was amended to delete any redundancy with amended claim 1, from which it depends. Claim 12 was amended to incorporate the same limitations as claim 1, therefore Applicants submit that claim 12 is also allowable. Claims 13 to 17 have been canceled. New claims 18 to 23 have been presented, and these represent the same subject matter as the claims originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been entered. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 to 12 and 18 to 23 are allowable.

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Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b or e) over various references.

Applicants respectfully submit that without necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, claims 1 and 12 have been amended in an effort to hasten prosecution and are allowable, as previously discussed. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot with the amendment to claims 1 and 12, the independent claims, and the cancellation of claims 3, 5, 8 and 13 to 17. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b or e).

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over various references.

Applicants respectfully submit that without necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, claims 1 and 12 have been amended in an effort to hasten prosecution and are allowable, as previously discussed. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot with the amendment to claims 1 and 12, the independent claims, and the cancellation of claims 3, 5, 8 and 13 to 17. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of each of the objected and rejected claims, claims 1 to 17. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 to 12 and 18 to 23, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted:
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